



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

Sunday, November 26, 2023, 10:00 am



1st Sunday of Advent

* Please rise in body and/or spirit

Music as We Gather

Gathering

* **Introit:** "Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

First Candle of Advent

Advent is a time to be filled with anticipation and hope.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring light to the world.

Advent is a time to remember that God's love extends to all people.

We wait and hope for the One who brings justice.

Advent is a time to renew our determination.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring righteousness.

Advent is a time to strive for understanding.

We wait and hope for the One who will bring peace.

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Sung Response:

“Hope is a Star”

VU #7 vs.1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. **R**

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. **R**

Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart. **R**

Recognition of the Land and Indigenous People

Welcome and Announcements

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you!

Call to Worship:

The dream of peace and justice is our Advent prayer.

**We commit ourselves to the way of harmony and
justice.**

We worship, knowing that God's vision of peace begins
with kindness and love.

**And never losing hope as we proclaim the timeless
message of Christ's Shalom!**

We gather with God and one another as we worship.

*** Hymn:** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

VU #2

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Opening Prayer

Learning With Our Children

The Lord's Prayer

VU #910

***Hymn:** "He Came Singing Love"

VU #359

He came singing love and he lived singing love;
he died singing love.
He arose in silence.

For the love to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;
he died singing faith.
He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope.
He arose in silence.

For the hope to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace.
He arose in silence.

For the peace to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Listening

Scripture:

Isaiah 64:1-9 *We are the clay; you are our potter.*

Mark 13:24-37 *The Son of Man coming in the clouds.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music: When A Child Is Born

Offered by Steeple Strummers

Sermon Putting Advent into God's Hands

Rev. Don Sellsted

* **Hymn:** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" VU #31

O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.

A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.

Celebrating

Offering of Our Gifts

*** Offertory:** “In the Bleak Midwinter” VU #55 vs.4

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

*** Offertory Prayer:**

**May these gifts give light when lost, hope when in
despair, and justice when oppressed. We bring them to
you as an act of sharing your love with the world. May all
who are broken be lifted up, we pray, as we dedicate
ourselves to you. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*** Hymn:** “People, Look East” VU #9

People, look east. The time is near
 of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
 Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
 one more seed is planted there:
give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:

Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
guard the nest that must be filled;
even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

*** Commissioning:**

*** Benediction**

May God's love increase our love for one another;
May Jesus teach us how to live in God's ways;
and may the Spirit strengthen our hearts,
as you ready yourselves for Jesus' birth once again.
We go in peace to love and serve, this day, and everyday.
And the people said... **Amen!**

Benediction Music: Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Offered by Steeple Strummers

Music as We Depart